

SECOND'S MATTERS

December 15, 2021



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Music Director's Desk

Bobby Sue thinks she has died and gone to horse heaven because I am not riding her near as much during the hunting season and as the weather becomes cold and blustery. In my latest calculations, we have logged over 850 miles since April of this year. She is deserving of much-needed rest. When the farrier removed her shoes, they were showing many miles of wear as they were paper thin and broke in half when they were being removed.

Speaking of protective gear: Those horseshoes did much to protect her hooves as she needed those for firm traction, especially on slippery surfaces. If those were not on her feet and I had put that many miles on her, she would have been permanently lame and would not have any quality of life. It would have ruined her. Ephesians Chapter 6 talks about putting on the full armor of God to protect ourselves from spiritual ruin. There are spiritual forces that constantly bombard us, and if we do not "armor up," we will find ourselves spiritually ruined. Ephesians 6:11 says to "Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

The devil is a schemer for sure. If there is any way he can trip us up or cause us to falter and be discouraged, he will do it. He will use any person or circumstance to attack us, even from people who are believers. So we must be on our guard, and conversely, be careful how we treat others. We do not want to be used by the enemy to attack our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so grateful to Jesus for temporarily leaving heaven to come down to our messy Earth and provide a Light in this dark and messed up world.

Our feet need to be "fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." Ephesians 6:15. The sandals of the gospel of peace help us to stand firm, giving us traction. Roman battle sandals usually had thick, spiked soles so that the soldier could anchor himself in the ground and remain steadfast. Regardless of how fiercely the enemy attacks us, we can remain firmly planted and anchored by knowledge of who we are in Christ.

May you have a blessed week, firmly planting those gospel of peace prepared shoes to stand firm against the enemy.

Sunday Worship, December 19: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

This Sunday will be our Children's Christmas Program. Pastor Dan's sermon "Why the Shepherds Were Afraid and Why They Didn't Need to Be" is based on Luke 2:8-14. The children's noisy coin offering will be for Camp Tall Turf.

During this season of Advent, a time of anticipation, we're focusing on the coming Light. Each week we will add another candle to the front of the church; this week, the candle of Love. As each week we light another candle, we celebrate a little more light breaking into the darkness of our world until Christmas Day when we will experience that Light in its fullness.

Christmas Eve Worship, December 24 – 9:30 pm

We will have a Candlelight Service of scripture and song starting at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve.

Sunday Worship, December 26

Pastor Dan's sermon "Light for the Nations" is based on Matthew 2:1-12.

Our Church Family

Thank you to all who sent cards and offered words of encouragement since the recent loss of our mother and grandmother. Your kindness has been a great blessing and is truly appreciated.

The Boven families

Our Christian sympathies go out to **Zach and Lizzie Van Wyk**. Zach's grandfather, Arvin Van Wyk, passed away on December 11.

Our Christian sympathies go out to **Jon and Valerie Volz and the extended Volz family**. Jon's father, Richard Volz, passed away December 13.

Congregational News

Church Office Hours

Due to staff schedules, the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday.

Oasis TONIGHT

Oasis will be meeting at First Christian Reformed Church (721 Hillcrest Ave.) from 6:30-8:00 pm tonight. This event will be our Christmas party and will be tons of fun.

Sunday, December 19

The Community Evening Worship this Sunday, December 19, will be held at Trinity Christian Reformed Church, 539 E. Pine, at 5pm. There will be **no** evening service at 1st Christian Reformed Church.

Reading the Book of Luke in December

Join us in reading a chapter of the book of Luke each day leading up to Christmas. There are 24 chapters. By the time you reach Christmas Eve, you will have read all of Luke's account of Jesus's life on this Earth as a preparation to celebrate his birth.

Love Offering Dates Extended

The deacons have extended our opportunity to show goodwill and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season; a "Love Offering" envelope has been put in your church mailbox. If you would like to participate, please put your envelope in the offering plate, give it to Audra Powell, or bring it to the church office by December 19. Please note that offerings following December 19 will be added to the General Fund.

District #10 Health Department COVID Reminder

Due to an increase in the current COVID positivity rate in Newaygo County, the Newaygo County Health Department and the CDC recommend using masks in indoor spaces.

Offering Information

Our Deacons encourage our support to our congregation's financial obligations through our offerings. Donations can be mailed to the church at 600 Apache Drive or submitted online via bank account or card at this link: [Online Giving](#). If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online, then download the "GivePlus" app.

Special envelope offerings are: December 19 – True North
December 26 – Fremont Service Committee
January 2, 2022 – Insight Pregnancy Services
January 9, 2022 – FYSH True North can drive

Stock the Pantry

For December, the requested food items are soup and crackers. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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[WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)